Safeguard duty on import of steel

859. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has deferred its decision to impose safeguard duty on import of hot rolled and other forms of steel for two more months;

(b) whether the Committee which had to decide on safeguards has pointed out that there was a need to take into consideration views of the consumer industry; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision in regard to private curbs on imported steel products will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Standing Board on Safeguards, held a meeting on 11 May 2009, to consider the recommendations of the Director General (Safeguards) for imposition of provisional safeguard measures on Hot Rolled Coils/Sheets/Strips. The Board decided that Director General (Safeguards) should continue with the investigations, consult all stakeholders, and submit a report to the Board within sixty days.

(c) A final decision will be taken by the Standing Board on Safeguards after considering the report of Director General (Safeguards), referred above.

Restructuring of MSTC, FSNL, KIOCL and HSCL

860. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an initiative to optimize functioning of 4 of its Public Sector Undertakings, *i.e.* MSTC, FSNL, KIOCL and HSCL, his Ministry is considering restructuring of companies and has appointed a Committee to suggest ways for it;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has examined structure and functioning of these four companies and has made recommendations regarding their reorganization, merger with other companies or other structure reorganization;

(c) if so, whether committee has already submitted its recommendation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Steel in May, 2009 to study the structure and functioning of MSTC, FSNL, KIOCL and HSCL and to suggest measures to achieve sustainable profits, enhanced business presence, diversification as well as re-organization or merger with other companies with a view to optimizing efficiency and profitability. The Committee has not submitted its recommendations so far.